

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been revised to conform it to the preferred format for U.S. patent applications, and a Substitute Specification and Comparison Copy are submitted herewith.

Claims 21-30 are amended; claims 1-20 are cancelled; claims 31-40 are withdrawn; claims 41-43 are new; and claims 21-30 and 41-43 are pending upon entry of the Amendment. No new matter is introduced by way of the Amendment. Support for the Amendment can be found, for example, in paragraphs [0007], [0023], and [0024] of the Substitute Specification submitted herewith.

Drawings:

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for allegedly not showing every feature of the invention specified in the claims. However, these allegedly missing features were not specified in the objection. Accordingly, applicant is unable to properly respond. Clarification of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections:

Claims 21-30 were objected to for informalities. Claim 21 was reworded to include “comprising” and claims 22-30 were reworded to substitute the routinely used “wherein” for the less common “characterized in that”. These changes were made for purposes of clarification unrelated to patentability concerns.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

Claims 21-27 and 29 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by US 6,330,503 to Sharp et al. (hereinafter “Sharp”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sharp does not teach nor suggest, *inter alia*, a “fixed reference system...locating a plurality of transmitters in the space around the handling system as field sources of at least one physical field for the location of the arm” as required by amended claim 21.

Sharp uses the global positioning system “GPS” to control the marking apparatus (see Abstract). As is known, GPS is a coordinate system which can be freely used by anybody (see <http://www.gps.gov/>). In contrast thereto, the method of the present invention does not use GPS or any other publicly available positioning system, but is required to use its own fixed reference system. This results from the additional features of amended claim 21 which are directed to locating (placing) a plurality of transmitters as field sources of at least one physical field which defines the fixed reference system of the invention. Such a feature is not disclosed by Sharp, which does not set up its own positioning system, but uses the available GPS system. Amended claim 21 is therefore novel in view of Sharp.

Amended claim 21 is also not obvious in view of Sharp or any of the other cited prior art documents or combinations thereof, as none of these documents discloses a method comprising the step of setting up its own physical field as a fixed reference system. Accordingly, Sharp teaches away from the present method, at least because Sharp uses the publicly accessible GPS system.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

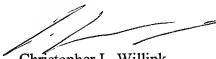
Claim 28 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sharp in further view of US 5,637,973 to Hirai et al. Claim 30 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Sharp in further view of US 6,516,248 to McGee et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. These claims ultimately derive patentability from claim 21, and also recite patentable claim limitations in their own right.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a formal notification to that effect at an early date is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at (415) 273-4380 (direct dial).

Respectfully submitted,



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